

Western Regional Panel

Executive Committee Monthly Conference Call Minutes

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Participants: Executive Committee - Karen McDowell (chair), Kevin Anderson, Stephen Phillips, Larry Dalton, Diane Cooper, John Wullschleger (after item 13) Joanne Grady (Coordinator); Committee Chairs - Paul Heimowitz and Jackson Gross

Items discussed:

1) November ExCom meeting notes approved to be posted on webpage.

2) WRP annual meeting Joanne received notes from CA; she'll distribute to ExCom today. ExCom to have comments into Joanne by Jan 3rd-4th for distribution to membership. Most bills are in; Karen will have budget synopsis for the meeting and then available for the brochure at next month's ExCom meeting.

3) Threats to the West Brochure – Since annual meeting, several ExCom members participated in final review. They have a final version. Karen & her folks have set up contract with Bobby Sloan the original designer to work on (she has all the original files) but will be doing the new design in InDesign software to allow state folks to reprint with their logo attached. Paul working with her and will need to trim a bit, draft mock-up to go out for review. New illustrations done for new species which mesh with old drawings. Predicted print time is the end of January. Will get printing bids.

4) Outside Newsletter request to reference WRP

At last meeting we agreed Bob will send copy with his edits back to ExCom. Answer to Nancy will come from Karen. Need update from Bob.

5) Logo Approval - Tabled for another meeting

6) Pacific Marine and Estuary NFH Partnership (Kevin Anderson)

Last month ExCom approved Kevin to hold seat for WRP pending Susan Mangin's approval for ANSTF to sit on a panel. AIS are a big threat to habitats so it makes sense for us to participate in this.

Karen will check with Susan Mangin to determine ability of WRP to sit on PMEHP steering committee. Kevin to draft request letter to PMENFH and sit in the seat if we get one.

7) Panel Coordinator Committee Update (Joanne Grady)

Meeting synopsis from facilitator forwarded to WRP mail list with request for additional committee members. Limited response from membership, will resend information. Awaiting updated draft position description from Susan Mangin.

8) Ballast Tank Letter and Committee Update (Karen McDowell)

Karen edited the letter with the comments and put on WRP letterhead. We still have questions with how being sent out, mail merge etc, but no one involved with project on this call. Will need to address this between the ExCom meetings.

9) ANSTF Groups Committees

Cynthia Tait has volunteered to serve on the ANSTF lionfish committee to represent the WRP

ANSTF requests for ad hoc committees – snakehead management and control plan (Jackson Gross volunteered to be a WRP representative), and research gaps for ballast water standards. CA State Lands Commission (Nicole Dibroski) has volunteered to serve on the committee. Stephen Phillips also volunteered. Joanne to forward requests to membership identifying that we have some volunteers for ballast water and we're looking for volunteers to join Jackson for snakehead.

ANSTF Strategic Plan Update – comments due by December 15th.

10) QZAP/NISAW (Stephen Phillips)

Recent conference call (Stephen and Tom are leads for QZAP). May also have participation from Karen Vargas, Amy Ferriter, Ted Thayer and Kevin Anderson. Greg Conover will be leading Asian carp conversation. They will all participate in breakfast briefing and follow with Hill visits. Another conference call scheduled next week to develop message. Will also talk about watercraft movements in the West as under QZAP; need to fine tune that message.

11) WRP 2012 Annual Meeting (Larry Dalton)

We have a team and call will be second week of January. He's looked at locations in SLC and Park City. Nice locations in both cities, but would have some transportation issues with Park City.

Sept 4-7th most likely dates. Would have about a dozen Division of Wildlife folks who could participate. Potential field trips with Great Salt Lake and waterfowl migrations with airboats and discussion about Fragmites control.

12) Integration of Committees in ExCom calls (Karen McDowell)

In past just had a couple of committees and they joined the call. Karen to develop spreadsheet of committees and chairs and assign them to an ExCom member. Provide template to committee chairs similar to Kevin's for reporting on committees.

13) PCR Workgroup (Stephen Phillips)

ISAC requesting NAS look at issue. BOR with Kevin Kelly will have a QZM monitoring workshop in TX the week of Feb 7th (via QZAP funds). Part of workshop will look at lab certification.

14) Field Gear Committee – no report.

15) ANSTF/ISAC Awards Committee

Plan to have first awards at NISAW. Group is developing a nominations process; expect a short turnaround time.

16) Coastal Committee (Kevin Anderson)

Jan. 19th meeting – agenda look at issues of concern for states and BC. And then determine how/where to have meeting on West Coast to coordinate how they respond to species. Will be looking for some funds to host that meeting.

17) Other News

Jackson Gross, USGS – Just attended an Asian carp meeting; lots of budget information. Using the USGS water guns they were able to clear the area between the two barriers so they could do maintenance on Unit 2B. Will resend report to us for distribution.

New Business

10) Next Call: Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 10 am MT, 9 am PT, 11 am Central –